

**The discovery of living specimens of *Quasisipho torquatus*
Petrov, 1982 (Gastropoda, Buccinidae),
and its transfer to the genus *Plicifusus* Dall, 1902**

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ABSTRACT. Recent specimens of *Quasisipho torquatus* Petrov, 1982, a species formerly known from the Siberian Plio-Pleistocene only, and type species of *Quasisipho* Petrov, 1982, are recorded for the first time. This species is hereby transferred to the genus *Plicifusus* Dall, 1902, making *Quasisipho* Petrov, 1982 a junior synonym of *Plicifusus*.

RESUME. Deux exemplaires de *Quasisipho torquatus* Petrov, 1982 appartenant à la faune actuelle sont signalés pour la première fois. Cette espèce, type du genre *Quasisipho* Petrov, 1982, n'était connue auparavant que du Plio-Pleistocène de Sibérie. Elle est transférée de *Quasisipho* Petrov, 1982 vers *Plicifusus* Dall, 1902. Par conséquent, *Quasisipho* est considéré comme synonyme plus récent du *Plicifusus*.

INTRODUCTION

Two specimens of a striking species belonging to the genus *Plicifusus* were purchased by the authors. Comparison with other buccinids revealed that this species is new for the Recent fauna. However during our study of the fossil fauna of the North Pacific we found a number of buccinid species described in the fossil literature as well as described as new to the recent fauna. We also found our two shells as already described as a fossil.

SYSTEMATICS

Family **BUCCINIDAE** Rafinesque, 1815

Genus *Plicifusus* Dall, 1902

Plicifusus torquatus (Petrov, 1982)

Figs. 1-4

Quasisipho torquatus Petrov, 1982: p.43, pl.3, fig.3-13,
type species of the genus *Quasisipho* Petrov, 1982:
p.43.

Type material.

Holotype 3829/5-3 and paratypes 3829/5-4, 3829/5-11 in Geological Institute, AH CCCP (now Russ.Acad.Sci.), Moscow.

Type locality.

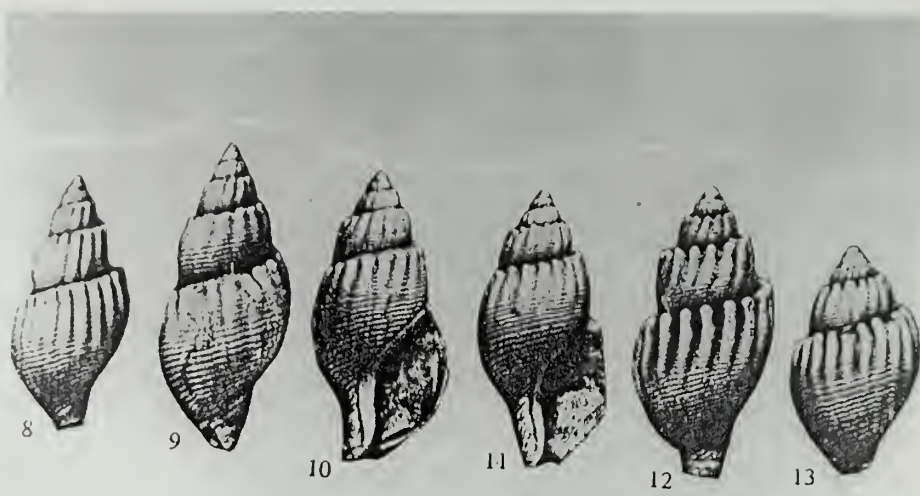
Late Pliocene - early Pleistocene of Vostokoi Kamtchatki, Kamtchatka, Siberia, Russia.

Habitat.

According to the other Pleistocene species (most of them can still be collected alive at present date) listed by Petrov (1982) the species was living on mud and silt.

Material studied.

Two empty, alive collected, shells from Kurile Islands and from central Ohkotsk Sea, respectively one in each author's collection.



1. Type material, Late Pliocene - early Pleistocene of Kamtchatka, in the Geological Institute, Russ.Acad.Sci., Moscow. After Petrov (1982, plate 3, figs. 8-13.)

Observations.

The shells measure 41,5 - 39,9 mm in length and are 21,1 - 21,4 mm broad. The aperture measures 17,8 - 18,6 mm in height (siphonal canal included) and are 9,3 - 9,8 mm broad. Length of body whorl: 28,9 - 29,3 mm. The shell is fragile and lightweight with a thin (in our specimens chipped) lip. They have 1 embryonal and 5 1/4 - 5 1/2 teleoconch whorls.

The shell is whitish with a very pale orange aperture.

The periostracum is pale olive-green and very thin. Our recent specimens are covered with Hydractifera.

On the body-whorl 15 - 17 strong and flexuous axial ribs or plicae. The ribs stop just below midwhorl. Near the suture, the axial ribs are very shouldered or knobbed and form a kind of subsutural platform, giving the suture a canaliculated appearance. On the last 1/3 - 1/2 part of the body whorl the axial ribs become very prominent and curved.

On the body-whorl 38 - 43 spiral cords. On the penultimate whorl 23 - 26 flat spiral cords. Above mid-whorl (between the axial ribs) the spiral cords are very flat and smooth with a small, sometimes hardly visible, spiral groove in between. Below midwhorl the spiral cords become more rounded and the spiral groove in between slightly wider and deeper. On the lower part of the siphonal canal 13 - 15 dense spiral cords.

At the time we purchased these specimens, the operculums were not preserved.

Comparison.

This species is very striking and can easily be distinguished from all other *Plicifusus* by the very strong axial plicae giving the suture a canaliculated appearance. However much more prominent, the axial sculpture is not unlike some other species in the genus, for example *P. okhotskana* Tiba, 1973 and *P. maehirai* Tiba, 1980. These latter species can be distinguished by the lower number of axial ribs which are less pronounced near the shoulder.

Discussion.

Notwithstanding the fact that both shells are empty, there is no doubt that these shells were collected alive. The specimen from Kurile Islands shows some dried traces of the remains of the soft parts.

There is no reason to create a new specific or subspecific name for these two recent shells. There is only little difference between the recent and fossil specimens. The type material shows that this species is rather polymorphic for the genus and the heavy axial sculpture in the recent specimens falls in the normal variability of the species. The 2 recent specimens are identical to the shell figured by Petrov on plate 3, figure 12 (Fig. 1).

Together with *P. torquatus*, Petrov recorded 25 buccinid species from the same area and geological period. At least 22 of them can be found alive at present time. Among them well known species as, for example, *Neptunea pribiloffensis* (Dall, 1919). We conclude that the stratigraphic range of *Q. torquatus* extended to the Recent fauna.

A fossil shell figured by Titova (1988: pl.18, fig.6) as "*Plicifusus species*" is very similar to *P. torquatus*.

Generic placement.

Hereby we transfer *Q. torquatus* to the genus *Plicifusus* Dall 1902, the genus *Quasisipho* becoming a junior synonym of *Plicifusus*. *P. torquatus* exhibits all characteristics typical of the genus *Plicifusus*.

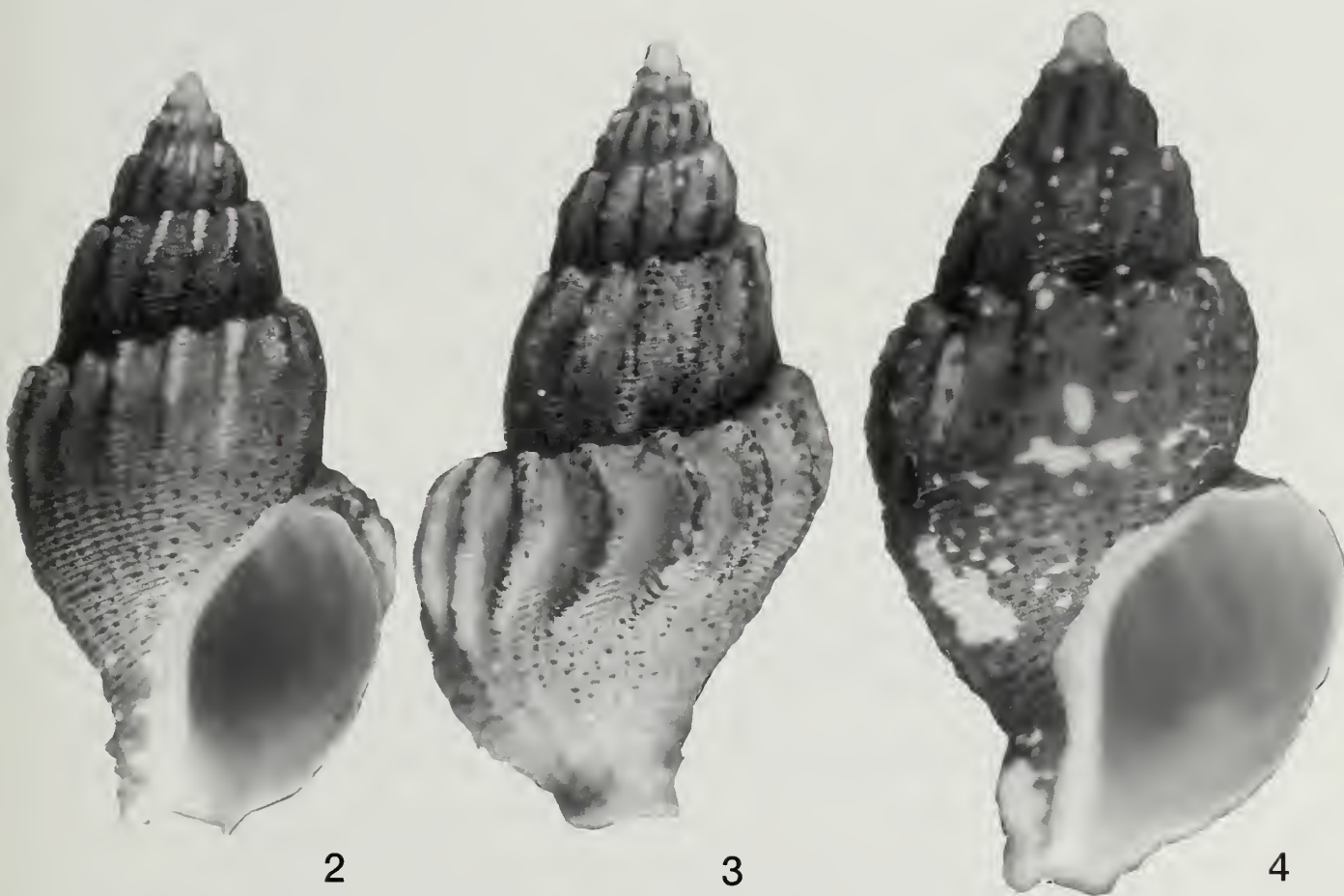
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Titova, L. V. 1988. Development of the fauna of the Neogene of the Kamchatka shelf basins. Acad. USSR "Nayka".



2-4. *Plicifusus torquatus* (Petrov, 1982).

2-3. Russia, Kurile Islands, coll. K. Fraussen, 41,5 - 21,1 mm. 4. Russia, central Okhotsk Sea, coll. H. Jakubzik, 39,9 - 21,4 mm.